

Federal Lands exists which can inventory critical biological species and communities at the local level and suggest solutions to land managers for conservation of these resources. Additionally, Federal trust resources such as migratory birds and endangered species, common to all Federal lands are coming under additional pressure through degradation of wildlife habitats; more emphasis on science support for adaptive management recommendations for system management in aquatic resources, and integrate biological information with geologic, hydrologic, and demographic databases.

General

Particularly where the BLM and Forest Service are concerned, there are any number of environmentally beneficial cost savings and budget offsets that could be achieved by increasing revenues for extractive uses (mining, grazing) and by eliminating costly subsidies. In addition, the Fee Demonstration Program, commercial user fees, and concession fees are also potential sources of revenue and cost offsets.

While it is clear that substantial savings and budgetary offsets can be achieved through these types of reforms, the purpose here is not to develop a comprehensive package of recommended budget cuts and offsets, but to identify the unfunded and underfunded spending priorities that are being targeted by the public lands community.

ALEXIS HERMAN, SECRETARY OF
LABOR NOMINEE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support a friend, and a confidant in Alexis Herman in her nomination for Secretary of Labor. Alexis Herman is no stranger to hard work. She has always worked hard to find practical solutions to the issues and challenges that American workers face. As Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison, Alexis Herman was known for her handling of delicate relations with diverse groups. President Clinton has given Alexis Herman a chance to put those skills to test again when he nominated her as Labor Secretary against the wishes of key labor constituencies. Mr. Speaker, Alexis Herman understands work and she understands workers.

Mr. Speaker, Alexis Herman has a proven track record. She is not only a longtime advocate for women and minorities but she is a product of a politically active home. Upon her graduation from Xavier University in New Orleans, she returned to her hometown of Mobile, AL, to help desegregate her old high school.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues here in the House and in the other Chamber look pass Alexis Herman being a woman and a Clinton supporter and realize her potential to be one of the best Secretaries of Labor this country can ever have. In my opinion, Alexis Herman is a wonderful choice for Secretary of Labor. She knows and understands working families' concerns, and I look forward to working closely with her.

I yield back the balance of my time.

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR REBUILD-
ING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS ACT OF
1997

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce the Partnership for Rebuilding America's Schools Act of 1997.

This is an exciting day for me. I began working on this issue with Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN nearly 2 years ago. Now, thanks to the leadership of President Clinton, we are finally beginning to tackle this problem.

Today, all over America, our schools are inadequate, overcrowded, and literally falling down. In Miami, students learn to read and write in temporary trailers. Here in our Nation's Capital, schools are closed for violating the fire code. In New York City, students dodge falling plaster and attend class in hallways and bathrooms.

A GAO report released last summer confirmed the worst. Record numbers of school buildings across America are in disrepair. One-third of all schools—serving 14 million students—need extensive repairs. About 60 percent of schools need to have roofs, walls, or floors fixed.

With school enrollment skyrocketing, this problem will only get worse.

It's time for the Federal Government to act. The bill we are introducing today will provide \$5 billion in Federal funding for school construction across the Nation. Funds will be distributed to the 50 States and the 100 largest school districts based on the numbers of school children in poverty.

This bill won't completely solve the problem, but it will make a crucial difference. For the first time the Federal Government will enter into a partnership with our local communities to rebuild our schools.

We know that America is only as good as our schools—and we know that this is a local problem that deserves a national response.

The situation in New York City is dire. A survey conducted by my office revealed 25 percent of New York City public schools hold classes in bathrooms, locker rooms, hallways, cafeterias, and storage areas. Almost half of school buildings have roofs, floors, and walls in need of repair.

A report by the New York City Commission on School Facilities revealed the following: Nearly half of New York City's school children are taught in severely overcrowded classrooms; 270 schools need new roofs; over half of the city's schools are over 55 years old; and approximately one-fourth still have coal-burning boilers.

We simply cannot prepare America's children for the 21st century in 19th century schools. Students cannot learn when the walls of their classrooms are crumbling down around them. We can't teach computer technology next to coal-burning boilers.

I expect that there will be opposition to this bill. We know that not everyone believes the Federal Government should address this problem. I join today with the 41 original cosponsors of the Partnership for Rebuilding America's Schools Act to state that the Federal Government can no longer afford to ignore this ticking timebomb. Government at all levels

must work together to solve this national crisis.

PARK OVERGRAZED BY
EXCESSIVE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 1997

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Yellowstone National Park faces an environmental crisis. For the past 30 years, the pseudoscience of natural regulation has guided park management. Scientists recently testified before the Parks Subcommittee that natural regulation is foolish, misguided, and not an appropriate nor a practical management philosophy for wildlife management. Robert Ross, a retired Soil Conservation Service officer for range conservation, has been a close observer of changing range conditions and wildlife use in Yellowstone National Park. His comments urging hands-on, appropriate management of habitat are well made and I commend them to my colleagues. I submit his recent article into the RECORD.

[From the Gazette, Mar. 16, 1997]

CONTROLS ON HABITAT URGED

PARK OVERGRAZED BY EXCESSIVE NUMBERS OF
ANIMALS

(By Robert L. Ross)

"A business that had been fascinating to me before suddenly became distasteful. I wanted no more of it. I never wanted to own again an animal I could not feed and shelter."

This remark was made by Granville Stuart, an early day Montana rancher, legislator and statesman. The remark was made in the spring of 1887 following a winter of severe cold and deep snow—a winter much the same as 1996-97.

One wonders if Yellowstone National Park officials have nightmares over the thousands of starving elk and bison in the park. Starving because there are five to six times more elk and bison in the park than the winter forage will support. Actually, park people are probably hoping for more of the critters to starve. That would help solve some of their overpopulation problems. However, it must be a terrible way to die. Shooting is more humane.

The park personnel try to cover their mismanagement by saying elk and bison are "naturally migrating animals." Cattle, horses and sheep are also naturally migratory. However, ranchers curtail their instinct to migrate by building and maintaining fences to keep them in the confines of the pastures and off their neighbor's land.

Ranchers also: (1) control their numbers to the available forage by selling excess animals for slaughter; (2) provide for adequate feed in adverse weather conditions; (3) control disease such as brucellosis, etc.; (4) encourage hunting on their private lands to control wildlife numbers.

In 1963-64 the Soil Conservation Service, at the park's request, conducted a range site and condition inventory of the Northern Winter Range. It was determined the range would safely carry about 350 bison and 5,000 elk plus smaller numbers of deer, moose, antelope and bighorn sheep. At this suggested animal population, the Northern Winter Range could be maintained in good condition.

When the elk and bison population was reduced to the available forage (in the 1950s